illegally ceded 5,180 sq. kms. of Indian territory in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir to China.

India and China are committed to working towards a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable settlement of the boundary question. Both countries are discussing the boundary question in the framework of the India-China Joint Working Group and India-China Expert Group. The Agreements on Maintenance of Border Peace and Tranquillity, signed in 1993 and on Confidence Building Measures in the Military Field Along the Line of Actual Control in the India-China Border Areas, signed in November, 1996, contribute to maintenance of peace and tranquillity in the border areas.

पाकिस्तानी जेलों में भारतीय सैनिक

352. **श्री जनेश्वर मिश्र:** क्या **विदेश** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि भारत के 54 सैनिक अभी भी पाकिस्तानी जेलों में युद्धबंदी के रूप में यातनाएं सह रहे हैं; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो सरकार द्वारा उन्हें छुड़वाने के लिए कूटनीतिक और राजनीतिक स्तर पर क्या कदम उठाए जा रहे हैं?

विदेश मंत्री (श्री जसवन्त सिंह): (क) और (ख) उपलब्ध जानकारी के अनुसार यह विश्वास किया जाता है कि 54 लापता भारतीय रक्षा कार्मिक पाकिस्तान की अभिरक्षा में हैं। पाकिस्तान यह कहता आया है कि उसकी अभिरक्षा में ऐसा कोई भी रक्षा कार्मिक नहीं है।

इस मामले को पाकिस्तान के साथ समय-समय पर विभिन्न स्तरों पर, जिसमें प्रधान मंत्री का स्तर भी शामिल है। उठाया गया है अपनी 20-21 फरवरी, 1999 की पाकिस्तान यात्रा के दौरान प्रधान मंत्री ने इस मामले को पाकिस्तान के प्रधान मंत्री के साथ उठाया था और यह निर्णय हुआ था कि दोनों पक्ष लापता युद्ध बन्दियों के मामले सहित सभी मानवीय मुद्दों की जांच के लिए मंत्रालय स्तर पर एक दो सदस्यीय समिति का गठन करेंगे।

श्रीलंका के सैनिकों को प्रशिक्षण

353. **डा० महेश चन्द्र शर्मा:** क्या **विदेश** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या अमरीका के विशेष सुरक्षा बल श्रीलंका के सैनिकों को प्रशिक्षण दे रहे हैं;

(ख) इस प्रशिक्षण कार्यक्रम के संबंध में सरकार की क्या जानकारी है और क्या मत है; और

(ग) क्या इस बात का हिन्द महासागर में अमरीकी सैनिक उपस्थिति से कोई संबंध है?

विदेश मंत्री (श्री जसवन्त सिंह): (क) सरकार का ध्यान इन खबरों की ओर गया है कि अमरीका श्रीलंका की सशस्त्र सेनाओं को प्रशिक्षण दे रहा है। इन खबरों के अनुसार, यह प्रशिक्षण चिकित्सा सेवाओं, जमीनी सुरंगों को नष्ट करने, विमानन, भू-नौवहन, युद्धक चिकित्सा निकासी और संचार के संबंध में है।

(ख) सरकार इस प्रकार के घटनाक्रमों की लगातार मानीटरिंग करती है क्योंकि इसका भारत की सुरक्षा और सामरिक हितों पर प्रभाव पड़ सकता है।

(ग) यह प्रशिक्षण दोनों देशों के रक्षा संस्थापनों के बीच चल रहे सहयोग कार्यक्रम का एक हिस्सा माना जा रहा है और यह इस क्षेत्र में अमरीका तथा अन्य देशों के बीच विद्यमान सहयोग के ही समान हैं।

Pressure from US on signing of CTBT

354. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United States have been persuading India to adhere to CTBT as reported in the Hindustan Times dated 14th January, 1999;

(b) if so, the latest reaction of Government on such pressure by US;

(c) whether Government now propose to sign CTBT in some amended form; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) Government is engaged in discussions with key interlocutors, including the US on a range of issues, including the CTBT. The objective of

these discussions is to harmonise India's essential national security interests with international concerns on further proliferation, which are shared by India. Government's approach in this matter is solely guided by India's national interest and the building of a national consensus in this regard.

(c) There is no proposal to amend the CTBT.

(d) Does not arise.

India's Willingness to Sign CTBT

355. DR. MANMOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have indicated to the US Government its willingness to sign the CTBT in the next few months; and

(b) if so, what are the broad elements the Minister of External Affairs and the US Deputy Secretary of State during their discussions in January, 1999?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Government's position on the CTBT is determined purely by considerations of national interest. The building of a national consensus will continue to guide the Government's approach to the CTBT.

The Indian position regarding CTBT remains as stated by the Prime Minister in UNGA in September, 1998 "India, having harmonised its national imperatives and security obligations and desirous of continuing to cooperate with the international community is now engaged in discussions with key interlocutors on a range of issues, including the CTBT. We are prepared to bring these discussions to a successful conclusion, so that the entry into force of the CTBT is not delayed beyond September, 1999. We expect that other countries, as indicated in Article XIV of the CTBT, will adhere to this treaty without conditions"

(b) As on earlier rounds of bilateral talks, the security perspective of the two sides were further elaborated and clarified with a view to harmonising perspectives. Both delegations expressed satisfaction at the progress made in the last round of talks. The talks will be continued.

G-15 Summit at Montego Bay

356. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian delegation led by the Prime Minister of India attended the three-day G-15 Summit at Montego Bay in Jamaica from 10th February, 1999;

(b) if so, what were the details of discussion held there and outcome of above mentioned Summit;

(c) whether any concrete action plans for furthering G-15 member's common trade and investment interests chalked out by Prime Minister of India; and

(d) what role India played in imparting the much needed dynamism to the Summit?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The G-15 Summit Meetings deliberated extensively on issues of concern to developing countries. These includes discussions on the current international economic situation in the light of the ongoing financial crisis, establishment of a fair and equitable rule-based multilateral trading system under the World Trade Organisation (WTO), reform of the international monetary and financial architecture, South-South and intra G-15 cooperation and prospects of undertaking a G-15—G-8 dialogue in these matters. All such priorities were duly reflected in the Joint Communique issued at the end of the Ninth Summit. In order to be able to cope with the challenges posed by globalisation and economic liberalisation and the ongoing financial crisis, members agreed to